The Wobbly Oscillator
Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
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Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society ARLHS.COM #440

NOVEMBER 2008 VOLUME XXXVIII ISSUE XI

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT NOVEMBER MEETING...CHRISTMAS PARTY COMING SOON

More in this issue.

FROM THE PREZ

This may be my last article as president. We go to press before the November election of officers for 2009, and if I am not re-elected, I sincerely wish to thank the membership of C.A.R.S. for honoring me with the office for the last few months. It really has been my pleasure. Previous leadership has made C.A.R.S. one of the best radio clubs there is. Whatever my role, member or officer, I am already looking forward to another great year.

With the past behind us, it is time to look ahead. The educational program kicks off the new year, beginning in January. Our licensing classes have brought many new hams into our fold, including myself. There is a place for every C.A.R.S. member to be involved. You can introduce someone to our wonderful hobby by suggesting and helping them enroll in the Technician course. Those licensed can upgrade by taking the General of Extra class. And for those at the top, we can always use help teaching. Later in the year, plans are being made for operating classes. The basic operating class we had last year was a roaring success, and we hope to have an advanced class in 2009, as well. When you see Bob, W8GC, take a second and thank him for all he has done with the whole program. Although he has a lot of help from other members, Bob is the driving force behind the program. He puts an awful lot of time and a lot of heart making sure it all goes well.

The public service the club does with the Diabetes Association is something we all can be proud of. Our work will continue next year under the direction of Tom, WB8N, as we provide communications for the two major fund raising events the organization has. We team up with other clubs for the Tour de Cure bicycle race in the early summer, and exclusively handle communications for the fall walk downtown. *continued on next page....*

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Then I think about all the people Tom's efforts have helped, I wear my C.A.R.S. jacket with pride. Tom always gets a lot of help from the members, as it is a team effort to set up the necessary communications network.

The VE team will continue to service the area with examinations every other month, and at least one special session for the licensing classes. The VE team leader is Gary, NI8Z. Gary and company always display quality and organization during their test sessions. There is plenty of work behind the scenes; scheduling, acquiring current material and communicating results that is always handled well. The team is also growing, as new VEs are becoming certified. Hats off to the C.A.R.S. VE team for helping many local people become hams, and many hams upgrade their classification.

The Copley Middle School radio club will be expanding into the high school due to the maturation of some of the students. Dave, KD8V, began working with the young people several years ago; and with the help of several club members, has made the school radio club a very attractive activity. This is one of the most important things we do. The result of getting the young folks interested in amateur radio, especially in light of all the competing modern technologies, is additional participants in the amateur radio service. All the people from C.A.R.S. who have lent a hand to the students certainly should be commended. We will continue our popular activities for next year.

Our weekly Wednesday nets are going stronger than ever. We have more net controllers than ever, and check-ins are numerous thanks to a combination new and old members coming in on two meters, 440 and Echolink.

Plans are already under way to make our successful Field Day even better next June. June also ushers in our summer picnic meetings; I can't wait for the first one. Those meetings are so welcome after a long, cold winter, or even after a short, mild winter; if we can get lucky. Speaking of picnics, the annual summer picnic has gotten better every year thanks to George, K8KR and the others who volunteer and bring food for us all to enjoy, so next year it should be a dandy.

We also have some new glimmers on the horizon. Emergency communications is one of the most important functions of amateur radio. This summer we were introduced to the new ARES group forming in the area, and I'm happy to say C.A.R.S. has been represented at the initial meetings. I strongly encourage as many members as possible to get involved with this activity, for this is the heart and soul of ham radio.

But before we start a new year, we have one important task – PARTY. The Christmas party scheduled for December 19 promises to be a great time for all. It seems for the last few years, Old Man Winter has given us his worst on party night. But we've managed to beat him back every time. I always leave the event with a warm feeling after spending the night with my best friends and favorite people.
73, Toby, WT8O

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

The C.A.R.S. October monthly meeting was called to order at 7:32 by President Toby Kolman, WT8O on the 14th of the month. The meeting was held at Bush Funeral Chapel Community Room in Parma, Oh. Twenty nine members and one guests introduced themselves to begin the meeting.

There were no additions, or questions to the September minutes as published in the Wobbly Oscillator so the minutes was accepted.
Bob Check, W8GC gave the treasure's report He said that things have not changed much and that things were going ok. Bob said that we can start paying for next years dues, and the Christmas party. The members can also pay by PayPal if we want to. Vice President Eddie Stevens, KD8FTS encouraged people to fill out the questionnaire on the interview page on the

continued on next page...

members web site. Eddie also invited hams to work the NASA radio station. If you would like to do give Eddie a call.
Scotty, WA8SLN gave sunshine report telling us he sent three cards out to Sherr Kolman wife of (Toby WT8O) overnight stay in hospital, Lee Georgia WA8ERA, and Johanna wife of (Bruce Back N8DJX).

VE Gary, NI8Z was not present at the meeting as he was down south somewhere chasing the little white ball around a golf course but his report was that three people passed the TECH and two upgraded to GENERAL, at the last VE session.

Ron, K8VJG asked if anyone had additional nominations for awards.

W. O. and Diabetes Walk: Tom, WB8N asked everyone to send articles and pictures by the 26th of the month for the WO. Tom then thanked all the volunteers who came out for the walk on October 4th.

Bob, W8GC will have a meeting for instructors for the license classes before the end of the year.

Dave, KD8V thanked all the members who helped out down at Copley Middle School with the kids. They have gotten eight TECHS and three GENERALS their licenses so far.

Nominations of Officers and Odd year Board members they are:
Officers:
Secretary Steve, N8SRJ,
Treasurer Bob, W8GC
Vice Pres. Eddie, KD8FTS
President Toby, WT8O ,
Board Members: (3 to be elected)
George, K8KR, Tom , WB8N,
Metro,W8MET, Dwaine ,K8ME
Steve K8SAS, Gary, NI8Z

By-Law change: Bob, W8GC made the motion to amend the By-Laws, Steve, N8IS seconded the members passed the amendment. Ron, K8VJG motioned to accept the By-Law changes., Darren K8DMT seconded and the members passed the changes.

Refreshments were provided by Mike, KB8UGT-pop, Ron,K8VJG-donuts, Steve, N8IS and Tina W8HBI brought and made the coffee, Gary NI8Z was not able to make the meeting.

50/50 was won by Bill Sarver, WU8A. He won $31.00 with $31.00 for CARS.

At 8:45pm the meeting was adjured. Program was by Bob W8GC and Bill WU8A covering the ARRL DXCC awards program.

Submitted by Stephen Jones, N8SRJ
C.A.R.S. Secretary.

Below are some pics from the October meeting.

ARRL DXCC AWARDS
We will be comparing W7HUY's 2007 DXCC statistics with my 2008 findings
We will review the DXCC Annual List, Honor Roll, #1 Honor Roll, 5 band DXCC, DXCC Challenge, QSLing & more
Plus take a look at K8MFO's very modest station that has put him at #6 in the world on the DXCC Challenge plus received #1 Honor Roll status.

Bob, W8GC giving his program on DX'ing

Ron, K8VJG setting out the donuts

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W8GC & WU8A preparing for their program

FIELD DAY WRAP-UP
By Toby Kolman, WT8O

As I write this, the Field Day scores have not yet been posted. They should be on the ARRL website any day now, and they will be published in the December *QST*. We are hoping for a high position in our class based on our score. However things turn out, I want to take a moment to thank the team. The station captains were Gary, NI8Z; Steve, N8IS; Roger, N8TCP; Ron, WA8ZJV; Bob, W8GC; Ron, K8VJG; Mike, KB8UGT; and myself. These fine gentlemen put in an incredible amount of work designing their stations, procuring equipment, and enlisting operators. They took care of every aspect needed to setup and run an emergency station for twenty-four hours. Although the station captains set-up the stations, they needed good reliable operators to make it all work. The operators were Matt, W8EBB; Steve, K8SAS; Wayne, K8FF; Metro, W8MET; TOM, WB8N; George, K8KR; Dave, K8DAV; and Jacob, KD8CDC. Ken, K8OAE, oversaw the entire operation for safety, and the results of his efforts proved out in the pudding; no accidents, no injuries. Ken also took a boat load of fine pictures and put them on a professional quality CD complete with background music. The event was further chronicled on Linda, N8LRS's, excellent video. We can sleep easy when we put her video into the 2008 C.A.R.S. time capsule knowing Field Day was visually recorded so well as a result of her long hours with a camera in hand. Scotty, WA8SLN, lent his usual charm to our endeavor acting as greeter and tour guide. New member Mike, KG8MTG, stepped up to help with the task of sending out press releases and inviting public officials. Eddie, KD8FTS, set up an eye catching and informative display for the public information table. Gary, K8REF; broke new ground this year creating and delivering an informative educational activity, complete with a hands on demonstration and graphic visual aids. Mike, KB8BMT, not only operated around the clock, but he provided a successful demonstration on emergency power yielding points from actual QSOs. Darren, K8DMT, helped Mike and everyone else during the event. We can never thank Terry, KB8DTC, enough for keeping the whole soul of Field Day, emergency power, running seamlessly during the entire operating period. Another essential of Field Day, youth participation, was successful because of the efforts of Brad, KD8BBS. Not only did Brad round up some of the young folks and transport them up to the Field Day site, he has spent countless hours working with them at the school radio station. Our Field Day has become a first class event due to the food preparation by Bill, N8BBB. Words cannot describe how thankful those of us who stay for the entire period are to Bill for keeping great food available at all times. Lastly, I want to offer a special thanks to N8IS and W8GC for their time and expertise planning the uncountable details required for such a large undertaking. As is obvious, Field Day is a true team effort not possible without the efforts of many fine people.
73, Toby, WT8O

2009 DUES NOTICE

It's that time of year again; the 2009 dues are due on or before January 31, 2009. This notice is just to get you thinking about putting the 2009

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dues in your budget or paying early. Dues can be paid online by sending the funds via Paypal to bob@2cls.com

You can mail a check to: CARS, P.O. Box 31264, Independence, OH 44131 or pay in person at any CARS meeting. Dues are $20.00 per year for regular membership. Each additional family member is $5.00. If you are 60 yrs old or over and 18 yrs old or less your dues are only $12.00 per year. CARS will offer assistance to anyone having a hardship. Please let Bob Check, W8GC know if there is a situation we are unaware of.

LETTER (e-mail) TO THE EDITOR

I thank you for mentioning my name on the weekly net and in the newsletter. Can I mention my web page in the next newsletter so other people can contact me? If there's a problem, let me know or not. I almost taped the whole net but my radio was turned down. If you can mention my name, I can mention your name in my next biog. so you can have it. That would be cool. Everybody could see my biog. Next question, what is the answer to the trivia question? I didn't get that. What's the question of the day? Who comes up with these crazy questions? Get back to me when you can. Mike Lorens

Editor's note...Mike is a physically challenged young man who loves to listen to our nets. He is our only "social member". Mike's grandfather was a ham. Mike has his mom, Lynn, bring him out to Field Day every year so he can just be in that atmosphere and he enjoys the members of C.A.R.S. chatting with him and making him laugh. I e-mailed Mike back and this is his reply:

Thanks for replying! You made my day! What a sweet deal! That was a good idea last time to move my biog. address around so that more people can communicate with me. I would like you to check out my biog. I wrote about you guys at: www.myspace.com/mlorens98. You can leave me a message on that too.

CLEAN UP YOUR COMPUTER
By Steve Spisak, K8SAS

Here's a tip for a clean running computer. Okay, so now that everyone is tying the computer in with dx recording software and PSK digital software, you don't want to have your computer littered with pop-ups and malware.

Pop-ups we all know about. They used to tell us about the site we were visiting, or try to sell us something. Nowadays, there are a lot of these that ride along on incoming emails or legitimate sites that are visited. There are some that look like they are selling legitimate Windows compatible software. These are the ones that have gone a step further from just popping up and annoying, to imbedding malicious code in the operating systems registry and processes. This results in annoying pop-ups coming up every so often and slowing down your computer. This new popup is called malware, meaning malicious software.

One free, and we all like free, software scanning tool that we recommend at work is called Malwarebytes anti-malware software. It is free to use and does quite a good job in searching out this malware and quarantining and removing it.

It can be downloaded from, http://www.malwarebytes.org . You can select a quick scan or a full scan that will take longer due to it checking every file for malicious code. The free version must have the database updated manually, whereas the purchased version, $29.95, will update automatically. Both free and purchased will do the exact same thing.

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So if you think you have a problem that might need this software, try it out.
That's all for now, remember to update your virus software and backup your data files!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS
KC8MRC Robert Ozog 11-6-55
W8GJ David Yost 11-6-52
KC8OUH Jeff Venecek 11-7-52
WA8ERA Lee Georgia 11-13-43
K8IIU Jack Shott 11-13-37
W8KRF Carl Rimmer 11-15
KC8ZBP Sharon Andrisin 11-22
KB8QJA Pete Gerard 11-28-35
KC8LDI Ryan Dressler 11-26
Congratulations to one and all, you made it another year!

THE WOBBLY OSCILLATOR
By Tom Wayne, WB8N

Brrrrrrrrr...

I finally had to turn on the heat in the house, what with this dern cold weather starting. I guess it was about time. Have to be comfortable in the ole shack now, don't we? Better get any antenna work that needs to be done, done now!

GREAT WX FOR THE WALK

We had great weather for the annual American Diabetes Association "Step Out for Diabetes" walk this past October 4th. The Cleveland chapter of the American Diabetes Assn. raised a lot of money, with dollars still coming in. My step daughter Angela raised $910.00 her self, walking for her mother (my xyl) Lisa.

I personally want to thank all those C.A.R.S. members that came out to volunteer providing communications along the route. Patti Clair of the Diabetes Assn. expressed her heart felt thanks for our being there every year. I know that they really appreciate our service and look forward to our being there for them.

The members who came down to the Time-Warner Cable Amphitheater to help this year are: **Gary NI8Z, Gary K8REF, Ed NC8ED, Ron K8VJG, Mike KB8BMY, Mike KB8UGT, Toby WT8O,Mike K8EHP, Mary KC8YLC, Steve N8IS, Steve K8SAS & his wife Chris, Bill N8BBB, Mike KG8MTG, myself WB8N, and last but certainly not least, Buffalo Jim N8GXR**. Jim comes down from Buffalo N.Y. to help out. He is the president of a radio club in Buffalo, and he came down even though his club was having a hamfest the following day and he was busy with that. Jim also has an article in this issue of the W.O.

Next year the Diabetes Assn. Tour de Cure will again be based out of Blossom Music Center and will be held on June 14. The Step Out For Diabetes walk will be held in downtown Cleveland again on October 3. Mark those dates on your calendars and I hope to see a good turnout once again.

Below are a couple of pics of most of those who came out for the walk. Thanks again to one and all!

Most of the group assembled

continued on next page....

Members milling about with their coffee

VOTE & VOTE OFTEN

As mentioned previously in this issue, the annual vote for C.A.R.S. officers will be held at the November meeting. C'mon out and exercise your privilege If you can only make one meeting a year, this is the one to attend.

NOVEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

The program for the November meeting promises to be entertaining. Bob Morgan, K8RBV will be giving a talk on the humorous aspects of amateur radio.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Get your tickets for the annual C.A.R.S. Christmas party, which will be held on Friday, December 19th this year, at the Independence Civic Center. A good time is promised for all, along with good food and the Christmas spirit.

MEMBER "INTERVIEW"

There are still a whole lot of members, old and new, who have not had the pleasure of seeing their story in this newsletter. It is easy and painless folks. All you have to do is go to the C.A.R.S. web site, click on *member info,* when that page comes up, scroll down to the bottom and you'll see where to click on *survey*. Fill out the interview, and submit it. As soon as I get it, I'll put in the Wobbly Oscillator for all to see.

GOTTA RUN

Time to close for now guys and gals. I hope to see most of you at the November meeting. If you know someone who cannot make it to the meeting because they don't drive, can't drive at night, or any other reason, give them a call and offer to pick them up and bring them to the meeting. Of course you'll be expected to take them back home as well.

Don't forget the C.A.R.S. weekly net on Wednesday nights at 9:00 p.m. Give the weekly trivia question a try and talk about anything else you want to, within reason of course. We have a good time and there's not much on television on Wednesday nights anyhow.

If you have ever thought about becoming a net-controller, let Toby, WT8O know at the next meeting. It ain't hard folks.

I want to thank all that contributed to his months issue of YOUR Wobbly Oscillator newsletter. The more you submit for publication, the better the newsletter will be.

Keep those articles coming in folks, anything regarding amateur radio or remotely associated with amateur radio will be considered for publication.

See you at the meeting or on the air or both.

73, de Tom, WB8N

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THE RAM MOUNT
By Jim Glor, N8GXR

If you have ever leased a car you know that there's things that you're allowed to do and things that you can't. One big bone of contention I have is that you just can't drill where you like to mount you rigs. Well you can drill but be prepared to buy a new replacement part when the lease is up. That could be rather expensive. So what can you do? Well if there is a space where you can put your rig into great! I usually had to velcro rigs on and sometime it worked great and other times no so good at that.

When I purchased my Kenwood 710 I had to buy the super sticky strips and later the super strong interlocking strips. I found out that they didn't hold worth beans when it came to the rather heavy 710 model. Well what solution was there? Alas! I was told about the Ram Mount from a fellow ham. This runs about $147+ shipping. You buy one that fits you make model and year of car. The base mounts to the base of the passenger seat. Just take the two bolts out in front slide the Ram mount base in replace the bolts. It comes with a table top/tray (square or rectangle) for a computer. The left side of the tray is spring loaded so just pull it out; set the computer in and slide it back. Four curved grips hold the computer on the tray. You have probably seen these in police cars etc. One very nice thing about it is the adjustments. Raise it, lower it or just swing the computer tray out of the way. The tray even tilts. So if you don't have a fellow ham on board you can create room for someone to sit.

My 710 is mounted to the back of the tray by a bracket mount for the radio. You can also see on the pictures the control head is velcroed on top of an Alinco DR-235 and next to that is my AVMAP GPS unit. Yes, I run APRS and it will be nice to be able to answer other hams back when I get a message flashed across the screen of the control head. That's one of the reasons for the computer. All I have to get is the PC interface kit. No typing messages while driving. It would only be used with two people; preferably two hams. Packet can be operated too but on a limited scale.

Hopefully the pictures will do it some justice. This was my choice and I thought for those who haven't seen one it might prove interesting, not necessarily an alternative.

Ram Mount Base

More of Ram Mount

continued on next page

Another shot of the Ram Mount

Ram Mount with rig

CLUB NET WEDNESDAY, AT 9:30 P.M. C U THERE !

EXCERPTS FROM THE *GEARVAKf*
(The f is silent) BULLETIN
Reprinted with permission
Ultra-Accurate Hourglass Developed
By WB7TGQ

The Gronitor Corporation of America (GCA) announced last Friday that it had developed and would begin marketing a new concept in accurate hourglasses, suitable for use in the modern technological American society. For every day use, Gronitor continues to offer the "glow-in-the-dark" hourglass model, filled with the buyer's choice of Uranium or Radium sand. For superb, split-second accuracy, Gronitor has made available the "Deluxe Atomic Clock Hourglass" filled with ultra-accurate Cesium sand. Both models will be made available to certified GEARVAKf members through the GEARVAKf Gift Catalog. The "glow-in-the-dark" hourglass can be purchased for $13,549.99 postpaid. The ultra-accurate "Deluxe Atomic Clock" costs just a little bit mote at $63,449.89 and includes setting instructions.

Available from the Suspect Radio Sales Inc. Catalog....a subsidiary of GEARVAKf.....

Russian Global Positioning System: No antenna, no readout, no manual, inoperative... $299.95

Iraqi Baath Party Bylaws Manual: 1 page, Arabic only, printed in Saudi Arabia $17.95

Al Queda Operations Manual: 360 pages, Arabic & French only, printed in France. $69.95

Iraqi Republican Guard Uniforms: Dirty, damaged, urine soaked, in plastic bags. $109.99

Renault French Army Scout Cars: New, complete, defective, useless but cute, gross lot $144.00

Restoration & Rebuild Kit for French Army Scout Cars: w/replacements for bad parts $19,998

2008 CARS Christmas Party

Friday December 19, 2008 6:00p.m.
at the Independence Civic Center
in the Oak Room

Tickets are only $15.00 adults, $7.50 age 6 to 12
5 and under free

Prizes, surprises, karaoke and great food!
Pappou's will be our caterer

For tickets please contact
Tina W8HBI or Bob W8GC at 216-524-7711
or e-mail w8gc@2cars.org
If you can please bring a simple desert

Sign up now for Ham Radio classes, get your Technician, General or Extra class license!

Wednesday evenings starting January 14 and ending February 25, 2009

To register follow the link at www.2cars.org fill out the on-line application or call 216-524-1750 Bob, W8GC

Classes are held at the Independence Civic Center, 6363 Selig Dr. in the RED OAK room at 7:00 pm every Wednesday

class fees: Technician $25.00, General and Extra $20.00 non members or $15.00 CARS members, fee includes all class materials

February 25, 2009 will be a special VE Test session for all license classes, ARRL fee for this VE test is $14.00

Please arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 pm on Wednesday January 14 for registration